

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8
PA 10/3/03

In re the Application of

Yoshitaka SASAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2652

Application No.: 09/988,343

Examiner: W. Klimowicz

Filed: November 19, 2001

Docket No.: 111159

For: SLIDER OF THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING SAME**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**RECEIVED**

SEP 03 2003

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In reply to the August 21, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group 1, claims 1-18, with traverse. Additionally in reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species 1, Figures 1-25, with traverse. Among the claims of Group 1, it is submitted claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 18 are readable on Species 1. Further, it is submitted claims 1-3, 9, 11 and 18 are generic.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-30 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining groups. Further, it is submitted that three species is not an unreasonable number of species to examine. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be preformed without serious burden. See MPEP § 803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner

must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirements is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 2, 2003

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